

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 are pending. Claims 1-4 are currently amended. Claims 5-9 are added. Claim 1 is amended to clarify that the secondary lanthanoid is required to be present; therefore, the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejection for indefiniteness is obviated. New claim 5 finds support in the specification: pg 5, lines 12-14. New claim 6 finds support in the specification: pg 6, lines 4-7. New claim 7 finds support in the specification: pg 6, lines 17-20. New claim 8 finds support in the specification: pg 5, lines 20-22. New claim 9 finds support in the specification: pg 6, lines 13-16. No new matter has been entered.

It should be noted that, for purposes of the remainder of the Office Action, the Examiner has interpreted the secondary component of claim 1 as not necessarily comprising lanthanoid.

In light of the above-mentioned claim amendments, the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejections fall. Neither US 6,241,908 nor US 6,461,532 teach or suggest a piezoelectric ceramic requiring the presence of a secondary lanthanoid as claimed by Applicants. This is consistent with Examiner Koslow's notation that:

“there is no teaching or suggestion in the cited art of record of a piezoelectric ceramic ... further containing, as secondary components, 0.02-0.12 wt% of a lanthanoid, in terms of its oxide ...” (Office Action, pg 4, 4th paragraph).

Similarly and with respect to the provisional non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection, US Application 10/581,277 does not teach or suggest a piezoelectric ceramic requiring the presence of a secondary lanthanoid as claimed by Applicants. The present specification shows that the first sample of each of Tables 1-12 (“samples X-1”, i.e. Sample 3-1 of Table 3) correspond to the ceramics of US Application 10/581,277 in that they contain 0 wt% of the secondary lanthanoid (Pr₂O₃). Samples X-1 do not provide a Q_{max} of 12 or greater as is desired and obtained by Applicants' ceramic (2nd - 5th sample of tables 1-12). Accordingly, US

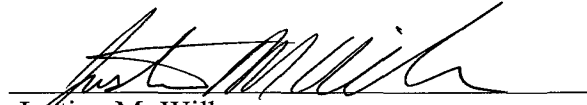
Application No. 10/541,022
Reply to Office Action of August 15, 2007

Application 10/581,277 does not teach or suggest a piezoelectric ceramic having excellent properties such as a large Q_{max} (i.e. ≥ 12.0) as claimed by Applicants.

Accordingly, and in view of the indication of a lack of teaching or suggestion in the art of record of Applicants' ceramic, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections and the passage of this case to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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